

NEWS RELEASE

September 5, 2006

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WHO IS UTAH'S TOP TREE CLIMBER?

*Arborists to Compete for Title at Murray Park September 9*

When your work requires you to dangle from a rope 30 or 40 feet from the ground it's a good idea to know what you're doing. Utah's 2006 Tree Climbing Championship will crown the state's top tree climber while also providing valuable safety training. The event takes place Saturday, September 9 at Murray Park, 202 East Murray Park Lane, Murray, Utah. The competition gets underway at 9:00 a.m. and the public is invited to come cheer the climbers on.

"This event will choose Utah's top tree climber who will represent the state at the annual International Society of Arboriculture Conference, held next year in Hawaii," said Meridith Perkins, Urban Forestry Coordinator for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. "More importantly the contest is a venue for helping professional arborists hone their skills and learn to do them safely."

Arborists compete in five events, the work climb; aerial rescue; belayed speed climb; secured foot lock; and throw line. The events are designed to assess an individual's ability to perform essential skills accurately and safely.

Individual event winners receive a prize of \$50 and the Master's Challenge winner is provided \$1,000 towards attending the International Tree Climber competition. The Utah Community Forest Council, Rocky Mountain Power, Provo City Power, and Murray City Power and Light sponsor Utah's 2006 Tree Climbing Championship.

At 10:00 a.m. on Saturday children will be given an opportunity to learn and apply proper tree climbing skills. For more information contact Lisa Hanussak at (801) 446-8229.

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